

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 06441 071622Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-15 SAB-02 EB-08 /082 W  
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R 071445Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3564  
INFO PANCANAL  
USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 6441

DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN

USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO

PANCANAL FOR IO

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SOPN, PN  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

FOLLOWING SENT USIS/PANAMA REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO

UNCLAS PANAMA

SECSTATE FOR ARA/PAF & PAN

USIA FOR IOP/M

MEDIA REACTION

1. PANAMA CITY.- CANAL TREATY: ALL MORNINGS SEPT. 7 DEVOTE  
MOST OF FRONT PAGES TO TORRIJOS-CARTER MEETING AND TONIGHT'S  
TREATY SIGNING. PRO-GOP MATUTINO RUNS LARGE RED HEADLINE AT  
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TOP OF FRONT PAGE, "END OF COLONIALIST ENCLAVE," FOLLOWED BY  
SPANISH TEXT OF NEW TREATY. SEMI-INDEPENDENT LA ESTRELLA  
LEADS WITH, "NEW TREATY IN THIS EDITION; CARTER-TORRIJOS TO  
SIGN NEW TREATY: UNPRECEDENTED ACT IN HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS;  
GEN. TORRIJOS RECEIVES SIGNIFICANT CONGRATULATIONS FROM  
MENAHEM BEGIN." BEGIN CONGRATULATIONS ALSO CARRIED VIA ACAN-  
EFE ITEM PAGE ON MATUTINO.

2. ENGLISH STAR AND HERALD HEADS FRONT PAGE WITH, "CANAL TREATY TEXTS RELEASED: TORRIJOS, CARTER TO INK NEW CANAL TREATY TODAY; HISTORIC EVENT SET FOR 6:30 P.M.," FOLLOWED BY SUMMARY OF TREATY'S MAIN PROVISIONS, AND AP STORY DETAILING SIGNING SCENARIO.

3. BOTH PANAMANIAN TV STATIONS AND ALL MAJOR RADIO STATIONS CARRIED SUMMARIES OF TREATY TEXT, SENT BY THEIR CORRESPONDENTS NOW IN WASHINGTON. TREATY SIGNING TO BE CARRIED LIVE BY TWO PANAMAINA STATIONS TONIGHT, AFRTS RADIO-TV IN CANAL ZONE, AND CHAIN OF 20 RADIO STATIONS THROUGHOUT PANAMA.

4. ALL MORNINGS PLUS SEPT. 6 AFTERNOONER LA REPUBLICA CARRY PHOTOS OF PRES. CARTER WITH TORRIJOS. ESTRELLA HEADS FRONT PAGE STORY ON MEETING, "OMAR TORRIJOS DECLARES, 'I WAS IMPRESSED BY CARTER'S CONVICTION THAT TREATY WILL BE RATIFIED.'" MATUTINO RUNS FRONT PAGE INTERVIEW WITH TORRIJOS BY PRO-GOP CRITICA EDITOR, HEADED. "MEETING OF CARTER WITH GEN. TORRIJOS MORE THAN POSITIVE." INTERVIEW QUOTES TORRIJOS AS SAYING, "PRES. CARTER IS A MAN WHO INSPIRES IMMEDIATE CONFIDENCE... WHAT IMPRESSED ME MOST WAS HIS FIRM CONVICTION THAT HE CAN GET THE TREATY RATIFIED BECAUSE OF HIS KNOWLEDGE THAT THIS IS A JUST... AND MORAL PEOPLE." ASKED ABOUT FUTURE OF US-PANAMA RELATIONS, TORRIJOS REPLIED, "CARTER WANTS THIS TO BE BEGINNING OF NEW ERA IN RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND LATAM." UNCLASSIFIED

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TORRIJOS ALSO TOLD INTERVIEWER THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO REFERENCE TO "IDEOLOGICAL POSITION OF PANAMA," BUT QUOTED CARTER AS TELLING HIM THAT "THIS TRIUMPH IS IN GREAT PART YOURS PERSONALLY."

5. OTHER FRONT PAGE STORIES IN MATUTINO ARE SPECIAL REPORT FROM MATUTINO EDITOR NOW IN WASHINGTON, "PANAMANIAN CAUSE ACCENTED IN US CIRCLES," AND UPI ADOLFO MERINO STORY, "TREATY SIGNING EVENT OF CENTURY."

6. ESTRELLA FRONT PAGES DENIAL BY PANAMAIAIN FINANCE MINISTER BARLETTA OF SEN. THURMOND COMMENTS ABOUT PANAMAIAIN PRES. LAKAS, AS RECOUNTED IN RECENT EVANS-NOVAK COLUMN. BARLETTA WAS PRESENT AT MEETING BETWEEN LAKAS AND THURMOND, AND CLAIMS SEN. THURMOND "DISTORTED" CONVERSATION. RADIO MUSCIAL COMMENTAOR JUAN CARRETE SEPT. 7 AGREED THAT BARLETTA IS NOTED FOR "HIS SERIOUSNESS AND HONESTY" AND HIS VERSION MUST BE CORRECT ONE.

7. MATUTINO EDIT CALLS THURMOND ACCUSATIONS "LAST CHAPTER IN POLITICAL FAIRY TALE WRITTEN IN SERIALIZED PAPERBACKS," AND ACCUSES HIM AND OTHER OPPONENTS OF TREATY OF TRYING TO "CONFUSE AND DIVIDE THE SURPRISING NAIVITE OF SOME US READERS." SUCH "LOW MEANS FOR LOW ENDS" WILL FAIL, SAYS MATUTINO, BECAUSE OF

IMPORTANCE OF SEPT. 7, WHEN "TWO MEN OF AMERICA ENTER...  
EXCEPTIONAL GROUND, WALK PATHS WHERE BEFORE CONFUSION REIGNED,  
TO PENETRATE INTO SUNLIT FIELD WHERE TRUTH, JUSTICE, DIGNITY AND  
RESPECT SHINE."

8. PRES. CARTER AND GEN. TORRIJOS, SAYS MATUTINO, WILL BECOME  
GREAT MEN THIS AFTERNOON," ONE, BECAUSE HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO  
CONVINCE; THE OTHER, BECAUSE HE KNEW HOW TO GIVE IN BEFORE  
CONVINCING REASON OF THE FIRST." TWO MEN "SPEAK SAME VOCABULARY  
OF AMERICANIST SPIRIT AND OF HUMANITY, EVEN THOUGH THEIR IDEAS ARE  
EXPRESSED IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES." THE SEPT. 7 EVENTS, "UNDER  
PATRONAGE OF LEADERS OF AMERICA... HAVE QUALITY OF PERMANENCE  
AND STAMP OF IMMORTALITY."

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9. ESTRELLA EDIT, BEGINNING ON FRONT PAGE, CALLS SEPT. 7 "AN  
UNFORGETTABLE DATE," WHICH NO FUTURE GENERATIONS OF PANAMAIS  
WILL EVER FORGET. BECAUSE OF "NEW AMERICANIST SPIRIT OF CLEAR  
COMPREHENSION NOW PREVAILING IN WASHINGTON," US AND PANAMA HAVE  
BEEN ABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT. THIS IS NOT BECAUSE PAST LEADERS  
OF PANAMA HAVE LACKED PATRIOTIC FERVOR, SAYS ESTRELLA, BUT  
BECAUSE OF "US GOVERNMENTS WERE NOT YET PREPARED TO SEE REALITY,  
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS SO VISIBLE, AS WAS FACT THAT US COULD NOT  
PRESENT ITSELF IN WORLD WITH IMMACULATE CAPE OF DEMOCRATIC PURITY,  
DEFENDERS OF LIBERTY AND INDEPENDENCE OF PEOPLE, WHILE  
MAINTAINING COLONIAL ENCLAVE IN HEART OF TERRITORY OF AN  
AMERICAN NATION."

10. ESTRELLA CONCLUDES THAT SEPT. 7 SIGNING IS "CLEAR AND PATENT  
DEMONSTRATION THAT CURRENT US GOVERNMENT SINCERELY PLANS TO  
TAKE UP POLICY OF HEALTHY AND ADVANTAGEOUS RECTIFICATIONS TOWARD  
LATIN AMERICA WITH OBJECT OF EFFICIENTLY FORTIFYING CONTINENTAL  
SOLIDARITY." ESTRELLA RUNS EDIT PAGE PHOTO OF PRES. CARTER,  
OVER CAPTION, "WITH ADMIRATION, GRATITUDE AND RESPECT, WE SALUTE  
TODAY HIS EXCELLENCY MR. JIMMY CARTER, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED  
STATES OF AMERICA, WHO HAD DONE JUSTICE TO PANAMA."

11. MATUTINO COLUMNIST LUIS RESTREPO SAYS THAT ALL PANAMAIS  
WILL BE SPIRITUALLY PRESENT AT TREATY SIGNING CEREMONY, "TO LIVE  
HISTORIC MOMENT WHICH WILL END AN INJUSTICE MAINTAINED BY THE  
GREAT POWER FOR THREE QUARTERS OF CENTURY." RESTREPO SAYS  
PANAMAIS MUST BE "PREPARED TO ASSUME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY WHICH  
FUTURE PRESENTS US. WE MUST ALSO BE VIGILANT SO THAT THE OTHER  
SIDE DOES NOT VOID WHAT IT HAS AGREED TO. THIS IS A TASK FOR  
THE NEW GENERATIONS TO WHOM WILL BE GIVEN THE NEW FATHERLAND."  
SUCH AN EVENT IS LESS LIKELY, SAYS RESTREPO, SINCE SIGNING OF  
DOCUMENT IS TAKING PLACE BEFORE LEADERS OF ALL LATAM, AND THUS  
IS "A SOLEMN PROMISE NOT ONLY WITH PANAMA, BUT WITH LATIN AMERICA."  
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12. RADIO AND TV STATIONS HAVE DEVOTED LARGE SECTIONS OF AIR TIME TO TREATY SIGNING, BUT RELATIVELY LITTLE PURE COMMENTARY, ALTHOUGH MOST NEWS REPORTS ARE OPTIMISTIC IN TONE.

13. PRO-GOP CRITICA, ISSUED LATE SEPT. 7, CARRIES TREATY TEXT, WITH FRONT PAGE HEAD, "READ NEW TREATY WHICH BREAKS STAKES OF COLONIALISM." FRONT PAGE PHOTO OF GEN. TORRIJOS AT MIRAFLORES LOCKS IS CAPTIONED, "END OF ENCLAVE: PANAMA SOVEREIGN." INTERVIEW WITH TORRIJOS BY CRITICA EDITOR ALSO CARRIED PAGE ONE. BACK PAGE STORY SAYS THAT AT MOMENT OF SIGNING, "HUNDREDS OF SIRENS, BELLS AND HORNS WILL SALUTE HISTORIC EVENT FOR THREE MINUTES."

14. CRITICA EDIT SAYS, "FOR OUR COUNTRY, SIGNING OF THIS TREATY IS A GIANT STEP IN ITS STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION AND CROWNS EFFORTS OF NEGOTIATIONS CARRIED OUT FOR MORE THAN 13 YEARS WITH THAT COMBATIVE ATTITUDE WHICH INFLAMED NATIONAL CONSCIENCE AFTER HOLOCAUST OF THE MARTYRS JAN. 9, 1964." CRITICA REVIEWS EVENTS OF PAST, AND QUOTES FORMER PANAMAIAAN LEADERS WHO CALLED FOR PANAMAIAAN SOVEREIGNTY IN CANAL ZONE, CONCLUDING, "WITH THIS TREATY WHICH TODAY JIMMY CARTER AND OMAR TORRIJOS SIGN, THE IGNOMINIES WILL DISAPPEAR... OF COURSE WE DID NOT ACHIEVE ALL THAT WE WANTED... BUT (IN 23 YEARS) WE WILL BE OWNERS OF ALL THAT BELONGS TO US. AND THIS MEANS WE MUST CONTINUE FIGHTING SO THAT THE AGREEMENT WILL BE RATIFIED IN US SENATE AND LATER PUT INTO EFFECT." ITEM  
GONZALEZ

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## Message Attributes

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